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Selected Speeches and News Releases

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USDA ANNOUNCES WEEKLY CATTLE SLAUGHTER, MEAT PURCHASES AND EXPORTS OF CATTLE UNDER THE DAIRY TERMINATION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10—An estimated 8,800 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending Nov. 22 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

This total includes all cows, heifers and calves identified as dairy animals designated for disposition in compliance with the program requirements.

The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1 through Nov. 22 is an estimated 870,600 head.

The purchases of meat in addition to normal purchases are to help offset the effects of the DTP on the domestic meat market. Cumulative purchases through Dec. 5 total 333,337,442 pounds.

Dairy cattle reported for export under the program for the period April 1 through Dec. 5 totaled an estimated 45,719 head. Live cattle exports are in addition to meat purchase requirements.

Cattle Slaughtered, Meat Purchased and Cattle Exported under the Dairy Termination Program[1]

Week Ending (1986)		Cattle Slaughtered (Number)	Planned Meat Purchases (Pounds)	Meat Purchased (Pounds)	Cattle Reported for Export (Number)
April	26	259,700[3]		21,808,896	
May	31	163,100		69,188,480	6,222
June	28	98,000		67,951,412	7,316
July	26	96,300		60,581,808	6,470
Aug.	30	120,100		56,778,000	10,672
Sept	27	52,500		20,680,000	4,031
Oct.	25	43,200		788,500	4,032
Nov.	1	9,100		10,800,346	1,399
	8	10,100		-------------	1,471
	15			-------------	1,044
	22			10,720,000	817
	29			440,000	640
Dec.	5			13,600,000	1,205
	12				
	19				
	26				
Total		870,600	280,400,000[4]	333,337,442	45,719

[1]Includes all cows, heifers and calves under the DTP.
[2]Preliminary data, subject to revision.
[3]Estimated for April 1 - April 26.
[4]Thru Dec. 31.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

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LYNG ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL-SCALE FARMING OFFICE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9—Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng has announced the formation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office for Small-Scale Agriculture.

The new office will work with other USDA agencies to focus department expertise and resources on issues concerning small-scale farming, and will coordinate its functions with other rural development activities within USDA, according to Lyng.

The office falls under the jurisdiction of USDA Assistant Secretary for Science and Education Orville G. Bentley, and is headed by Program Director Howard (Bud) W. Kerr, Jr., an agricultural economist specializing in small-farming operations.

"Changing trends in recent years have caused small-scale agriculture to become a viable economic enterprise," said Kerr. "Small farms have increased in number and importance partly as a result of consumers' increased preference for fresh, locally grown farm produce. Another reason is the increase in direct marketing avenues, including local retail farm markets."

Kerr said the office will assess and disseminate information on research, education and technological developments of interest to small- and medium-sized farm operators. Support for the new office will be provided by the Small Farm Resources Development Working Group, consisting of representatives from several USDA agencies, he said.

According to U.S. Census Bureau's 1982 census, the number of farms of less than 50 acres in size has increased 17 percent 1978. Census Bureau and USDA data show that many small farms are operated by part-time farmers who produce diverse agricultural products including vegetables, fruits, nursery plants, honey and livestock.

Jane Ross (202) 535-0960

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard W. Goldberg today announced these prevailing world market

prices of rice, loan rate basis:

—long grain whole kernels, 5.69 cents per pound;

—medium grain whole kernels, 5.06 cents per pound;

—short grain whole kernels, 5.07 cents per pound;

—broken kernels, 2.85 cents per pound.

Repayment rates for 1986-crop warehouse or farm-stored rice loans are the higher of the world price or 50 percent of the loan rate.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. EST, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-5954

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USDA ISSUES FINAL PEANUT WAREHOUSE STORAGE LOAN AND HANDLER REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5—Regulations for peanut warehouse storage loans and handler operations for the 1986-90 peanut crops were issued today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

These final regulations reflect changes made by USDA after considering comments on the interim rule issued June 17 and the amendment to the interim rule issued July 31.

According to Milton Hertz, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the changes provide that:

—For the 1986-crop of peanuts all handlers were required to post a letter of credit representing the difference between the quota and additional support rates on 5 percent of the pounds contracted. Handlers electing nonphysical supervision posted a letter representing 10 percent of the pounds contracted.

For 1987 through 1990-crops, all handlers must post a letter of credit equal to the difference between the quota and additional support rates on 10 percent of the pounds contracted. Handlers electing nonphysical supervision are required to post a letter of credit representing 15 percent of the pounds contracted.

—Pool offsets for the "disaster transfer" pool will be made only against any other pool distributions to persons who transferred additional peanuts to the quota pool; these peanuts must be transfers made for pricing purposes as permitted by the regulations.

—Pool proceeds for Valencia-type peanuts grown in New Mexico will not be offset except for determining net gains and making offsets for disaster transfers.

—Substitution of quota peanuts for additional peanuts used in the domestic market will be permitted for handlers electing physical supervision. The rules will essentially be the same as those in effect before 1986 except that matching exact screen sizes is no longer required; exact grades must now be substituted.

—For handlers electing nonphysical supervision, an allowance for shrinkage is allowed of one-half of one percent.

Except for some other minor changes, Hertz said the final rule adopts the provisions of the interim rules issued June 17 and July 31.

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789.

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4—Under Secretary of Agriculture Daniel G. Amstutz today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5, through 12:00 midnight Thursday, Dec. 11.

The adjusted world price is at average U.S. producing location (near Lubbock, Texas) and will be further adjusted for other qualities and locations. Such price will be used in determining First Handler Cotton Certificate payment rates. Based on data for the week ending Dec. 4, the adjusted world price for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

Northern Europe Price		55.77
Adjustments:		
Average U.S. spot market location	10.94	
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.80	
Average U.S. location	.53	
Sum of Adjustments		-13.27
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE		42.50 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

Northern Europe Price	55.77
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price	-47.58
	8.19
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton	-5.95
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	2.24 cents/lb.

The next adjusted world price and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Dec. 11.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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USDA INCREASES GRAIN INSPECTION FEES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4—Effective Jan. 5, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is increasing its fees for federal inspection and weighing of grain, and is establishing a new fee for Federal Grain Inspection Service supervision of Class Y ship weighing services for grain shipments to domestic markets only.

Fees for official inspection and weighing services under the U.S. Grain Standards Act are being increased from 17 percent to 42 percent, according to FGIS Administrator Kirk Miller. "The fee increases are intended to cover operation, supervision and administrative costs," Miller said. "Fees for inspection and weighing services were last revised on Aug. 1, 1984."

Miller said that in 1985, 1986 and continuing into fiscal year 1987, FGIS has reduced staffing, furloughed employees and taken other savings measures in an effort to provide cost-effective services without

endangering its ability to respond to the grain industry's need for quality weighing and inspection. FGIS will continue to monitor its financial revenues, and will reduce fees in the future if warranted, he said.

Under the new fee schedule, fees for original inspection and weighing services on a contract basis will increase approximately 17 percent; for inspection and weighing on a non-contract basis, 27 percent; for reinspection, appeal inspection, board appeal inspection and review of weighing, 30 percent; and for inspection services performed in Canada, 31 percent on a contract basis and 42 percent on a non-contract basis.

The new fee for each supervision of official Class Y domestic ship weighing is $12.30 per ship.

No changes were made in the fees for FGIS supervision of official inspection and weighing services performed by delegated states and designated official agencies. These fees were reduced 40 percent in October 1985.

Notice of this action was published today in the Federal Register. For further information, contact Lewis Lebakken Jr., Information Resources Management Staff, RM, FGIS, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Room 1661-S, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 382-1738.

Allen Atwood, (202) 475-3367.

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WILLIAM EVERETT NAMED TO FCIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4—Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Peter C. Myers today announced the appointment of William Robert Everett II of Palmyra, N.C., to the six-member board of directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

Everett replaces Mississippi farmer William Houston on the FCIC board.

Everett, currently a farmer, began his career in agriculture as an agronomist with the Miller Chemical and Fertilizer Company. In 1976 he founded a diversified farming operation in the Scotland Neck region of North Carolina.

FCIC Manager and Acting Board Chairman E. Ray Fosse said he was "pleased to have an individual with as much family farm experience as Bob Everett on the FCIC board of directors."

Everett earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy from North Carolina State University.

Mike Forgash (202) 447-3287

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COMMODITY CERTIFICATES MAY BE EXCHANGED FOR CCC-OWNED UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4—Cotton-specific commodity certificates issued as early payments under the Inventory Protection Program with an Aug. 1, 1986, issuance date and any generic commodity certificates, regardless when issued, may be exchanged for upland cotton in the Commodity Credit Corporation inventory beginning Jan. 2, 1987, according to Under Secretary of Agriculture Daniel G. Amstutz.

Other cotton-specific commodity certificates may be exchanged for upland cotton in CCC inventory beginning five months from the last day of the month in which such certificates were issued.

Requests to exchange commodity certificates for CCC-owned upland cotton available for exchange on Jan. 2, 1987, will be accepted beginning Dec. 15, and must be received by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service's Kansas City Commodity Office not later than 3 p.m. CST, Jan. 2, 1987.

Thereafter, CCC will make upland cotton available for exchange in two-week intervals as long as upland cotton is in CCC inventory. Requests for exchange must be received no later than 3 p.m. CST on the last day of each two-week period. If more than one request for exchange is received by CCC on the same catalog lot, selection will be made on a random basis.

Persons requesting the exchange of commodity certificates for CCC-owned upland cotton during the Dec. 15 through Jan. 2, 1987, period may not receive more than 10 percent of the catalog amount and will be notified on Jan. 7 of the quantity they will receive.

For each two-week period thereafter, no one may receive more than 50,000 bales or 10 percent of the catalog amount, whichever is greater. Anyone requesting the exchange of commodity certificates for CCC-owned upland cotton will be notified on the Wednesday following the last day of each two-week period of the quantity they will receive.

Upland cotton made available for exchange on Jan. 2, 1987, will be

valued by CCC at the adjusted world price in effect Jan. 2, free and clear of all carrying charges, except bale compression. Thereafter, upland cotton made vailable for exchange will be valued by CCC at the adjusted world price in effect on the last day of the two-week period in which the request is received, free and clear of all carrying charges, except bale compression.

Amstutz said a catalog listing the qualities and warehouse locations of cotton available for certificate exchange and instructions for making offers will be mailed to persons on the cotton catalog mailing list by Dec. 12.

Others wishing to receive this information should contact: Joseph Broxson, telephone (816) 926-6168, or Richard Blanton, telephone (816) 926-6662, or write to Kansas City Commodity Office, Bulk Commodities Division, Cotton Branch, P.O. Box 205, Kansas City, Mo. 64141.

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

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USDA RECONFIRMS RULE ON PORK IRRADIATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today reconfirmed its Jan. 15 rule allowing irradiation of pork for trichina control.

Public comments on the rule raised no compelling arguments or information that raised questions about the action, according to Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Houston said that low-dose irradiation of fresh or previously frozen pork is an effective way of controlling trichinae larvae, the parasites that cause trichinosis.

FSIS food safety specialists advise consumers to cook fresh pork roasts—irradiated or not—to at least 160 degrees F. to prevent other food-borne illnesses.

USDA's approval of pork irradiation followed that of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. FDA has primary responsibility for assuring the safety of food additives, and USDA approves additives for use in meat and poultry products. The sources of energy used in the food irradiation process, such as radioactive cobalt, are legally classified as food additives. FDA approved gamma irradiation of pork for trichina control in July 1985, thereby enabling USDA to consider its use.

"In developing its own regulations, USDA accepted FDA's determination that irradiation of pork in the approved dose range is safe," Houston said. "The public comments on USDA's regulations provided no significant new information."

Houston said the subjects of the comments included regulatory procedures, safety issues, labeling provisions, potential loss of nutrients from the irradiation process and USDA's ability to determine if pork has been irradiated.

USDA considered a total of 19 public comments on the rule, including nine that were received after March 17, the end of the 60-day official comment period.

No irradiated pork is yet being marketed, Houston said, because no company has satisfied USDA's stringent inspection and quality-control requirements for the irradiation process.

The response to comments and confirmation of the final rule is scheduled for publication Dec. 5 in the Federal Register.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service assures that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled.

Sharin Sachs (202) 447-9113

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